MAX-DOAS measurements of tropospheric NO_2 and HCHO in Munich and the comparison to OMI and TROPOMI satellite observations

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Abstract.

We present two dimensionally scanning Multi-AXis Differential Optical Absorption Spectroscopy (MAX-DOAS) observations of nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) and formaldehyde (HCHO) in Munich. Vertical columns and vertical distribution profiles of aerosol extinction coefficient, NO_2 and HCHO are retrieved from the 2D MAX-DOAS observations. The measured surface aerosol extinction coefficients and NO_2 mixing ratios derived from the retrieved profiles are compared to in-situ monitor data, and the surface NO_2 mixing ratios show good agreement with in-situ monitor data with a Pearson correlation coefficient (R) of 0.91. The aerosols optical depths (AODs) show good agreement as well ($R = 0.80$) when compared to sun-photometer measurements. Tropospheric vertical column densities (VCDs) of NO_2 and HCHO derived from the MAX-DOAS measurements are also used to validate OMI and TROPOMI satellite observations. Monthly averaged data show good correlation, however, satellite observations are on average 30 % lower than the MAX-DOAS measurements. Furthermore, the MAX-DOAS observations are used to investigate the spatio-temporal characteristic of NO_2 and HCHO in Munich. Analysis of the relations between aerosol, NO_2 and HCHO shows higher aerosol to HCHO ratios in winter which reflects a longer atmospheric lifetime of secondary aerosol and HCHO during winter. The analysis also suggests that secondary aerosol formation is the major source of aerosols in Munich.

1 Introduction

Nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) and formaldehyde (HCHO) are important atmospheric constituents that can have a strong influence on air quality and climate. Both play a crucial role in the formation of tropospheric ozone (O_3) (Crutzen, 1970) and aerosols (Jang and Kamens, 2001), consequently having a strong impact on the Earth's radiation budget. Moreover, they are toxic to humans in high concentrations. Major sources of NO_2 are fossil fuel combustion, biomass burning, lightning and oxidation of ammonia (Bond et al., 2001; Zhang et al., 2003). HCHO is an intermediate product of the oxidation of almost all volatile organic

compounds (VOCs), which is why it is widely used as an indicator of non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOCs) (Fried et al., 2011). VOCs also have a significant impact on the atmospheric abundance of hydroxyl (OH) radicals, which are the major oxidants in the troposphere. The main HCHO sources include oxidation of VOCs emitted from plants, biomass burning, traffic and industrial emissions. Despite the importance of HCHO, it is typically not considered a gas that has to be

5   regularly monitored, so more measurements are needed in order to fully examine atmospheric processes involving HCHO.

Space-borne observations are indispensable tools to monitor the spatio-temporal distribution of atmospheric pollutants like NO_2 and HCHO on a global scale (Burrows et al., 1999; Bovensmann et al., 1999; Callies et al., 2000; Levelt et al., 2006; Veefkind et al., 2012). Vertical Column Densities (VCDs), representing concentrations integrated over vertical atmospheric columns, derived from spectral radiances provide deeper insights into atmospheric dynamics, as well as anthropogenic and

10   natural emissions (Beirle et al., 2003; Wenig et al., 2003; Beirle et al., 2004; Richter et al., 2005; Zhang et al., 2007; van der A et al., 2008). However, the accuracy of satellite retrievals strongly depends on a number of assumptions about the surface albedo, cloud and aerosol optical properties, and the vertical distribution of trace gases. Therefore, validation of satellite observations by means of ground-based observations is crucial to determine the influence of those assumptions on the accuracy of the VCDs (Wenig et al., 2008; Chen et al., 2009; Lin et al., 2014; Chan et al., 2015; Jin et al., 2016). Furthermore, the temporal

15   sampling of satellite measurements is typically limited to a small number of overpasses per day prohibiting observation of diurnal cycles. In order to derive a complete picture of spatio-temporal variability, the combination of space-borne and ground based observations are useful.

The Multi-AXis Differential Optical Absorption Spectroscopy (MAX-DOAS) technique measures the vertical distribution of NO_2, HCHO and aerosols. This passive remote sensing technique uses spectroscopic observations of scattered sun-light

20   under different viewing directions and the differential optical absorption spectroscopy (DOAS) technique (Platt and Stutz, 2008) to derive column densities from molecular absorption in ultraviolet and visible spectral bands. Because of its compact experimental setup, it has been widely used for ground based observations (Hönninger and Platt, 2002; Hönninger et al., 2004; Wittrock et al., 2004; Frieß et al., 2006; Irie et al., 2008; Li et al., 2010; Clémer et al., 2010; Halla et al., 2011; Li et al., 2013; Ma et al., 2013; Chan et al., 2015; Wang et al., 2016) as well as for satellite validation (Jin et al., 2016; Chan et al., 2018).

25   Although the NO_2 load in many parts of the world including Germany show decreasing trends, concentrations in many cities in Germany still exceed the World Health Organization (WHO) annual average limit of $40\,\mu g/m^3$. Such exceedances are recorded at about $40\,\%$ of the traffic oriented monitoring stations (UBA, 2019), constituting one of the most severe air pollution problems in Germany. One example of high concentrations of pollutants is Munich, the German city with the highest NO_2 value in 2017 and second hightest in 2018 (UBA, 2019). Munich is the third largest city in Germany with a population of

30   around 1.5 million. Traffic and industrial emissions are the major anthropogenic sources of air pollution in Munich.

Ground-based MAX-DOAS measurements are performed since October 2016. The MAX-DOAS experimental setup, the spectral analysis as well as the retrieval of the aerosol extinction coefficients, NO_2 and HCHO concentration profiles are described in Section 2. The results of our retrievals for Munich include the spatial distribution of NO_2 and HCHO, their weekly pattern, and the interrelationship between aerosols, NO_2 and HCHO are presented in Section 3. Comparisons with

35   independent measurements are discussed in Section 4: aerosol extinction and NO_2 mixing ratios at the lowest layer of the MAX-

DOAS profile are compared to ground-based in-situ data, and aerosol optical depth (AOD) to sun-photometer measurements. Validation of OMI and TROPOMI satellite observations in terms of NO_2 and HCHO vertical column densities (VCDs) is subject of Sections 5. Section 6 concludes our study.

2 Data and Methods

2.1 2D MAX-DOAS measurements

2.1.1 Experimental setup

A 2D MAX-DOAS instrument was set up on the roof of a university building of the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (48.148°N, 11.573°E) which is about 25 m above ground level (515 m above sea level). The site is located 1.2 km north of the Munich city center. The locations of the MAX-DOAS as well as the Lothstraße ambient air quality monitoring station (48.155°N, 11.555°E) in Munich are indicated in Figure 1. The 2D MAX-DOAS instrument measuring scattered sun-light consists of a scanning telescope, 2 stepping motors controlling the viewing azimuth ($0° \leq \phi \leq 360°$) and elevation angle ($2° \leq \alpha \leq 90°$), and 2 spectrometers covering the ultraviolet (UV) and visible (VIS) wavelength range. Scattered sun-light collected by the telescope is redirected by a prism reflector and quartz fibers to the spectrometers for spectral analysis. The field of view of the instrument is about 0.4°. Two Avantes AvaBench-75 spectrometers equipped with backthinned Hamamatsu charge-coupled device (CCD) detectors are used to cover UV (305 - 460 nm) and VIS (430 - 650 nm) wavelength ranges, respectively. The full width half maximum (FWHM) spectral resolution of the UV and VIS spectrometer is 0.62 nm and 0.87 nm, respectively.

A measurement cycle starts with measuring scattered sun-light spectra at elevation angles (α) of 2°, 3°, 4°, 5°, 6°, 8°, 15°, 30° and 90° (zenith) for each azimuth angle (ϕ). For this study, the MAX-DOAS was configured to measure 7 consecutive azimuth angles of 0°, 90°, 135°, 180°, 225°, 270° and 315°. Measurements with $\phi = 45°$ were omitted because a building close by is blocking the lower elevation angles. The exposure time and the number of scans of each individual measurement are adjusted automatically depending on the intensity of the received scattered sun-light in order to have similar integration time of 1 minute for all the measurements. A full measurement sequence for all azimuth directions takes about an hour.

2.1.2 Spectral retrieval

All measurement spectra were corrected for the spectrometer CCD non-linearity, as well as for offset and dark current. The DOAS technique (Platt and Stutz, 2008) is then applied to the measurement spectra to derive slant column densities (SCDs) of the trace gases. In this study, the measurement spectra are evaluated using the spectral analyzing software QDOAS version 3.2. The spectral fit is performed at two different wavelength bands of 338 - 370 nm and 324.5 - 359 nm. Differential slant column densities (DSCDs) of oxygen collision complex (O_4), which are defined as the difference between the SCDs of off-zenith spectra and the corresponding zenith reference spectrum, used for aerosol extinction profile retrieval and NO_2 DSCDs used for NO_2 profile retrieval are taken from the former fitting band (338 - 370 nm). Due to the stronger absorption structure of HCHO in the shorter wavelengths, HCHO DSCDs used for the retrieval of HCHO profiles are taken from the latter fitting window
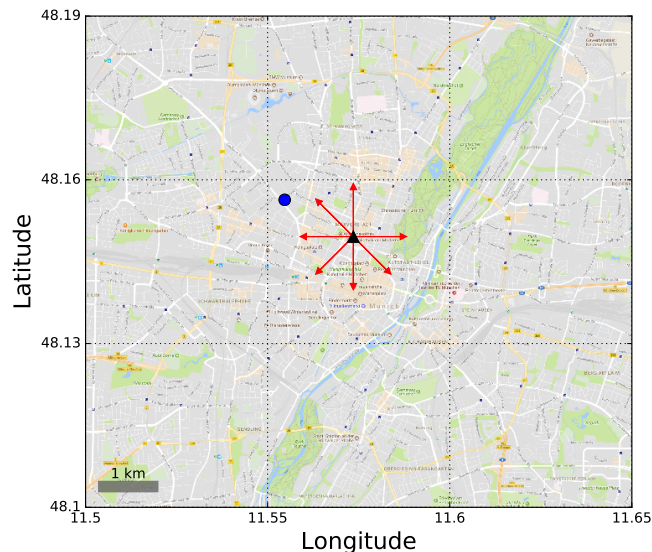
Figure 1. Locations of the MAX-DOAS measurement site (black triangle) and the ambient air quality monitoring station (blue dot). The red arrows indicate the azimuth viewing directions ϕ of the MAX-DOAS observations. The base map is taken from Google maps (https://www.google.com/maps/).

(324.5 - 359 nm). Detailed procedure of the combined retrieval of aerosol and trace gas profiles is presented in Section 2.1.3. A 5th order polynomial in the DOAS fit is responsible for removing broadband spectral structures caused by Rayleigh and Mie scattering. The absorption cross section of several trace gases used in the retrieval are listed in Table 1 for both wavelength ranges. These settings are based on the results from previous studies (Pinardi et al., 2013; Peters et al., 2017; Kreher et al.,

5 2019). In order to compensate for possible instabilities due to small thermal variations of the spectrograph, shift and squeeze parameters of the spectra are included in the fitting process as well. An example of the DOAS retrieval of NO_2 and HCHO DSCDs from a MAX-DOAS spectrum taken on 4 November 2016 at 10:02 (local time) with $\alpha = 2°$ is shown in Figure 2.

Several previous studies have shown that there is a systematic discrepancy between observation and model simulation of O_4 DSCDs (Wagner et al., 2009; Clémer et al., 2010; Wagner et al., 2011; Chan et al., 2015; Wang et al., 2016; Chan et al., 2018;

10 Zhang et al., 2018). While some studies found that the modelled and measured O4 DSCDs match with each other without applying any correction (Spinei et al., 2015; Ortega et al., 2016; Wagner et al., 2019). The discrepancies can be related to the systematic error of the O_4 absorption cross section, model error, optical properties of aerosols and aerosols above the retrieval height (Ortega et al., 2016; Wagner et al., 2019). Wagner et al. (2009); Clémer et al. (2010) suggested to apply a correcting scaling factor to the measured O_4 DSCDs in order to bring measured and modeled results into agreement. However,

15 the physical meaning of this scaling factor is still not fully understood (Wagner et al., 2019). Theoretically, the optical path should be the longest under aerosol free condition for off zenith measurement. Thus, the MAX-DOAS measurement of O_4
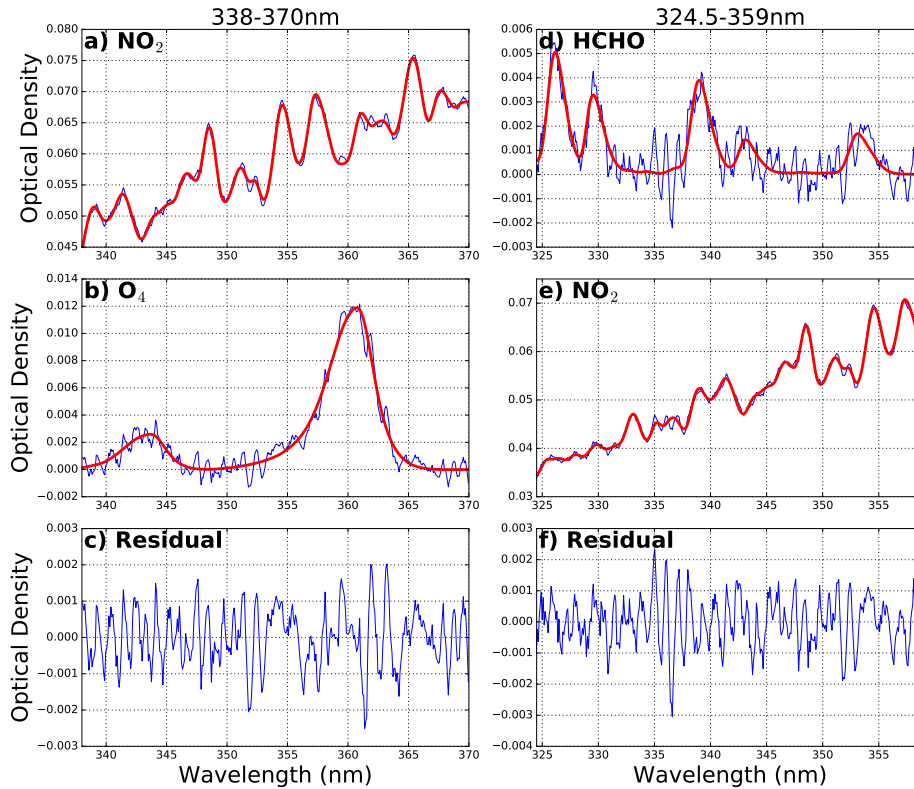
Figure 2. An example of the DOAS retrieval of NO_2 and HCHO DSCDs from a MAX-DOAS spectrum taken 4 November 2016 at 10:02 (local time) with viewing elevation angle of $\alpha = 2°$. The left panels show the DOAS fit in the wavelength range 338 - 370 nm, while the right panels show DOAS fit in the wavelength range 324.5 - 359 nm.

DSCDs should be smaller or equal to the one simulated with pure Rayleigh atmosphere. Following the approach mentioned in Chan et al. (2019), we compared the forward simulation of O_4 DSCDs assuming a Rayleigh atmosphere to the MAX-DOAS observations to determine the O_4 scaling factor. The result shows that the MAX-DOAS measurements occasionally exceeded the forward simulations. The monthly statistic of measured O_4 DSCDs exceeding the pure Rayleigh simulation is shown in Figure A1. The ratio between simulated and measured O_4 DSCD can be as low as 0.70 (2nd percentile). The exceedances are more frequent during winter, which is mainly related to the lower aerosol optical depths in winter (see Section 4.2), while the uncertainty of surface albedo and temperature dependency of O_4 absorption cross section are known to be small (Wagner et al., 2019; Wang et al., 2019). In order to avoid over-correction due to outliers, we take the 10th percentile instead of the minimum value of the simulated and measured O_4 DSCD ratio as the correction factor and multiply all MAX-DOAS observations of O_4 DSCDs with a correction factor of 0.8. From hereafter, all O_4 DSCDs refer to the corrected O_4 DSCDs.

Table 1. The DOAS retrieval settings for different wavelength bands.

Species	Temperature	Wavelength Range		Reference
		324.5 - 359 nm	338 - 370 nm	
BrO	223 K	✓	✓	Fleischmann et al. (2003)
HCHO	298 K	✓	✓	Meller and Moortgat (2000)
NO_2[a]	298 K	✓	✓	Vandaele et al. (1998)
NO_2[a,b]	220 K	×	✓	Vandaele et al. (1998)
O_3[c]	223 K	✓	✓	Serdyuchenko et al. (2014)
O_3[c,d]	243 K	✓	✓	Serdyuchenko et al. (2014)
O_4	293 K	✓	✓	Thalman and Volkamer (2013)
Ring		✓	✓	Chance and Kurucz (2010)
Polynomial		5th order	5th order	
Intensity offset		constant	constant	

[a] I_0 correction is applied with SCD of 10^{17} molec/cm^2 (Aliwell et al., 2002).

[b] Orthogonalized to NO_2 cross-section at 298 K (Vandaele et al., 1998).

[c] I_0 correction is applied with SCD of 10^{20} molec/cm^2 (Aliwell et al., 2002).

[d] Orthogonalized to O_3 cross-section at 223 K (Serdyuchenko et al., 2014).

2.1.3 Aerosols and trace gases retrieval

In this study, aerosol extinction coefficient profiles are retrieved from the observations of O_4 DSCD at the 338 - 370 nm band using the Munich Multiple wavelength MAX-DOAS retrieval algorithm (M^3). As the O_4 DSCDs are retrieved within a relatively narrow spectral band, we can assume that the wavelength dependency of the optical path within the fitting window is negligible. Thus, the forward radiative transfer simulation can be calculated at a representative wavelength of 360 nm, where the strongest O_4 absorption is located. A brief description of the aerosols and trace gases retrieval is presented below, a more detailed description can be found in Chan et al. (2018, 2019). The conversion of MAX-DOAS observations to aerosol extinction and trace gases profiles requires an inversion of the underlying radiative transfer equation (Wagner et al., 2004; Hönninger et al., 2004; Sinreich et al., 2005; Frieß et al., 2006; Hartl and Wenig, 2013). O_4 has several absorption bands in the UV and VIS spectral range. Due to its known vertical distribution, the absorption signal of O_4, which is a combination of the concentration profile and the photon paths, which in turn are influenced by the aerosol distribution, can be used for the aerosol retrieval.

The vertical profile of the aerosol extinction coefficient is retrieved from a set of MAX-DOAS observations with different viewing directions $y(\alpha, \phi)$. A set of MAX-DOAS observations $y(\alpha, \phi)$ is defined as the O_4 DSCD observations at the same scanning azimuth angle ϕ with different elevation angles α within a single measurement cycle. These observations of O_4 DSCD are grouped together for the aerosol vertical profile retrieval. We assume that the set of measurement (y) can be reproduced by forward radiative transfer simulations and the forward simulations of O_4 DSCD are dependent on the aerosol extinction profile

(x) and aerosol optical properties. Assuming aerosols are horizontally homogeneously distributed within the MAX-DOAS measurement range, so that the observation vector (y) can be described by Eq. 1.

$$y + \epsilon = f(x) + \delta \tag{1}$$

where ϵ and δ are the observation and simulation uncertainties, respectively. The aerosol extinction profile can be retrieved by fitting the forward simulations to the O_4 DSCD observations. In this study, all forward radiative transfer simulations were carried out using the library for Radiative transfer (libRadtran) radiative transfer model (Mayer and Kylling, 2005; Emde et al., 2016). The U.S. Standard Atmosphere (Anderson et al., 1986) mid-latitude profiles for winter (January) and summer (July) are temporally interpolated to each month of the year for the radiative transfer calculations.

As the information contained in the observation vector y is not sufficient to retrieve an unique aerosol extinction profile, the optimal estimation method is employed for the aerosol inversion. The optimal estimation approach supplemented the necessary information to the inversion in a form of an a-priori aerosol profile (x_a). The cost function χ^2 of the retrieval can be defined by Eq. 2.

$$\chi^2 = (y - f(x))^T \cdot S_\epsilon^{-1} \cdot (y - f(x)) + (x - x_a)^T \cdot S_a^{-1} \cdot (x - x_a) \tag{2}$$

where S_ϵ represents the observation uncertainty matrix, while S_a is the a-priori uncertainty covariance matrix. We assume the observations at different elevation angles are independent so that S_ϵ is a diagonal matrix. The aerosol extinction is assumed to be correlated with the neighboring layers, so that S_a is defined by Eq. 3.

$$S_{a_{ij}} = \sigma_{a_i} \sigma_{a_j} \, exp\left(-\frac{|z_i - z_j|}{\eta_{corr}}\right) \tag{3}$$

where z is the altitude of the center of the layer. Since in urban areas, aerosols are typically emitted and formed close to the surface, we assume an a-priori aerosol extinction profile following an exponentially decreasing function with a scale height of 0.5 km. The aerosol optical depth of the a-priori aerosol profile is set to 0.2, which is the average AOD measured by the co-located sun-photometer at 340 nm. The uncertainty of the a-priori aerosol profile is set to 50 % and the correlation length η_{corr} of the aerosol inversion is assumed to be 0.5 km. As MAX-DOAS measurements are more sensitive to the aerosol and trace gases close to the instrument, we divide the lowest 3.0 km of the troposphere unevenly into 20 layers. The lowest 1 km is divided into 10 layers with the thickness of each layer of 100 m, while the thickness of the layers between 1 km and 3 km is set to 200 m. Furthermore, we assume a fixed set of single scattering albedo of 0.95, an asymmetry parameter of 0.70 and a ground albedo of 0.04 for the radiative transfer calculations. Previous studies shown that a variation of surface albedo of 0.1 shows only a small effect ($\sim$2 %) on the radiative transfer simulation of O_4 DSCDs (Frieß et al., 2006; Wagner et al., 2019; Wang et al., 2020), a fixed albedo is used for the retrieval of all measurements. Single scattering albedo and asymmetry parameter of aerosol are the long term averages taken from the co-located sun-photometer. As the radiative transfer in the atmosphere is non-linear, therefore, the inversion of the aerosol extinction is solved iteratively by using the Gauss-Newton method.

The M^3 profile retrieval algorithm is featured with a dynamic a-priori module to avoid over-regularizing the retrieval under extreme conditions and reduce the dependency on a-priori information (Chan et al., 2019). The algorithm first uses a fixed initial a-priori (as mentioned above) to retrieve an initial aerosol profile. The fixed a-priori profile is then scaled to have the same aerosol optical depth retrieved from the initial run. The scaled a-priori is then used in the next retrieval to derive a new aerosol extinction profile. This procedure repeats until the difference of aerosol optical depth between the new and previous result is less than 10 % or the number of iterations reaches the limit, which is set to 5 in this study.

The aerosol information obtained from the procedure described above is used for the calculation of the differential box air mass factors ΔDAMFs, required for the trace gas profile inversion. The ΔDAMFs are calculated at a single wavelength for the retrieval of trace gas profiles using libRadtran with the Monte Carlo simulation module MYSTIC (Emde et al., 2016), assuming them to be constant within the rather narrow DOAS spectral fitting window. The relationship between ΔDAMF and DSCD can be described by the following equations.

$$\Delta DAMF_{ij} = \frac{\Delta SCD_{ij} - \Delta SCD_{zenith_j}}{\Delta VCD_j} \tag{4}$$

$$DSCD_i = \sum_j \Delta DAMF_{ij} \times \Delta z_j \times c_j \tag{5}$$

where ΔSCD_{ij} is the partial SCD measured with elevation angle i within the vertical layer j, while ΔSCD_{zenith_j} represents the partial SCD measured at zenith within the vertical layer j. ΔVCD_j indicates the partial column of at the vertical layer j. c_j is the concentration of the corresponding trace gas at the vertical layer j. As NO_2 DSCDs are retrieved at the same spectral band as O_4, the forward simulation of ΔDAMFs for NO_2 profile retrieval are also calculation at the O_4 absorption bands of 360 nm. HCHO DSCDs are retrieved at a slightly shorter wavelength band than O_4. Therefore, aerosol extinction profiles obtained at 360 nm are converted to 340 nm assuming a fixed Ångström exponent (Ångström, 1929) of 1.05 for the HCHO vertical profile retrieval. This value is the annual averaged Ångström exponent calculated from the co-located sun-photometer. The single scattering albedo (0.95), asymmetry parameter (0.70) and ground albedo (0.04) at 340 nm used for the radiative transfer calculations are assumed to be same as at 360 nm. The ΔDAMFs for the HCHO profile retrieval are then calculated using the converted aerosol profile at 340 nm. The layer settings of the trace gas profile retrieval are the same as the one used in the aerosol profile retrieval.

Following Eq. 4 and 5, a set of linear equations can be formulated by considering the measurements at different elevation angles α_i. Similar to the aerosol profile retrieval, the information contained in the MAX-DOAS observation is not sufficient to derive an unique solution. Therefore, the M^3 algorithm use the optimal estimation method (Rodgers, 2000) with a dynamic a-priori approach for the trace gas profile inversion (Chan et al., 2019). The algorithm first uses a fixed initial a-priori to retrieve an initial trace gas profile. The fixed a-priori profile is then scaled to the vertical column derived in the first retrieval. The scaled a-priori is subsequently used in the next retrieval. The process iterates until the difference between retrieved and previous trace gas column is less than 10 % or the number of iterations reaches the limit, which is set to 5 in this study.

The atmospheric layer settings of the trace gas profile retrieval are identical to the ones used in the aerosol profile retrieval. In this study, the a-priori NO_2 and HCHO profiles are assumed to be also exponential decreasing with a scale height of 0.5 km. The NO_2 vertical column density (VCD) of the a-priori is set to 1×10^{16} molec/cm^2 whereas the a-priori HCHO VCD is set to 8×10^{15} molec/cm^2. The vertical distribution of NO_2 and HCHO above the retrieval height (3 km) is assumed to follow the

5 U.S. Standard Atmosphere (Anderson et al., 1986).

2.2 Air quality monitoring network data

Ambient NO_2 and PM_{10} (particulate matter with diameter smaller than 10 μm, typically given as mass concentration in μg/m^3) data in Munich are acquired from an ambient air quality monitoring station operated by the Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment and Consumer Protection. The station is 1.2 km north west to the MAX-DOAS measurement site (48.155°N,

10 11.555°E) (blue dot in Figure 1). Ambient NO_2 mixing ratios are measured by an in-situ chemiluminescence NO_2 analyzer, while PM_{10} concentrations are measured with a beta attenuation and light scattering based in-situ particle analyzer. Details of the air quality monitoring network as well as air quality monitoring data can be found on the website of the European Environment Agency (https://www.eea.europa.eu/).

2.3 Sun-photometer measurements

15 A sun-photometer (CIMEL Electronique, CE-318) is installed next to the 2D MAX-DOAS instrument, providing multi-wavelength measurements of aerosol optical properties (Holben et al., 2001). As part of the AERosol RObotic NETwork (AERONET) (Holben et al., 1998), instrument #198, data include measurements at 7 different wavelengths, which are 340, 380, 440, 500, 675, 870 and 1020 nm, and aerosol optical properties are retrieved by an automated inversion algorithm developed by Dubovik and King (2000); Dubovik et al. (2006). Cloud screened and quality assured Level 2.0 data are used in this

20 study.

2.4 OMI satellite observations

The Ozone Monitoring Instrument (OMI) is a passive nadir-viewing satellite borne push-broom imaging spectrometer (Levelt et al., 2006) on board of the Earth Observing System's (EOS) Aura satellite. The Aura satellite was launched on 15 July 2004, orbiting at an altitude of ~710 km with a local equator crossing time of 13:45 on ascending node. The OMI instrument consists

25 of two CCD arrays covering a wavelength range from 264 nm to 504 nm. Each scan provides measurements of earthshine radiance at 60 positions across the orbital track covering a swath of approximately 2600 km. The spatial resolution of OMI varies from 13 km (across-track) $\times$ 24 km (along-track) at nadir to 150 km (across-track) $\times$ 40 km (along-track) at the edges of the swath. OMI scans along 14.5 sun-synchronous polar orbits per day providing daily global coverage.

  The OMI NO_2 product derived within the framework of the quality assurance for the essential climate variables (QA4ECV)

30 project are used in this study (Boersma et al., 2018). NO_2 SCDs are derived from earthshine radiance spectra in the visible band from 405 - 465 nm using a DOAS retrieval. The SCDs are then converted to vertical column densities (VCDs) using the

concept of air mass factors (AMFs) (Solomon et al., 1987). The AMFs used in the QA4ECV OMI NO_2 product are calculated at 437.5 nm with NO_2 vertical profiles taken from the global chemistry transport model TM5-MP (Williams et al., 2017). Albedo data is from the climatology albedo database derived from 5 years of OMI observations (Kleipool et al., 2008). Separation of stratospheric and tropospheric columns, which is necessary to provide proper information for the AMF calculation, is achieved

5   by the model assimilation approach (Dirksen et al., 2011). The QA4ECV HCHO product is also available (De Smedt et al., 2018). However, due to the degradation of OMI instrument and the low optical density of HCHO, the data is very noisy. Therefore, we do not include OMI measurement of HCHO in the comparison study.

2.5   TROPOMI satellite observations

The TROPOspheric Monitoring Instrument (TROPOMI) is a passive nadir viewing satellite borne push-broom imaging spec-

10   trometer on board the Copernicus Sentinel 5 Precursor (S5P) satellite. The satellite was launched on 13 October 2017 on a sun-synchronous orbit at an altitude of $\sim$824 km with a local equator overpass time of 13:30 on ascending node. The instrument has 8 spectral bands covering UV, VIS, near infrared (NIR) and short-wavelength infrared (SWIR). The instrument takes measurements at 450 positions across the orbital track which cover a swath of $\sim$2600 km, providing daily global coverage observations. The spatial resolution of the instrument is 3.6 km (across-track) $\times$ 7.2 km (along-track) for measurements taken

15   before 6 August 2019. Thereafter the instrument was switched to a better spatial resolution of 3.6 km (across-track) $\times$ 5.6 km (along-track). A more detailed description of the TROPOMI instrument can be found in Veefkind et al. (2012).

The operational TROPOMI NO_2 and HCHO products are used in this study (van Geffen et al., 2019, 2020; De Smedt et al., 2018). The operational TROPOMI NO_2 retrieval algorithm is very similar to the OMI product as demonstrated in the QA4ECV project. The operational TROPOMI HCHO product retrieves HCHO SCDs with a large fitting window of 328.5 - 359 nm. The

20   retrieved SCDs are then converted to VCDs using the AMF approach. The AMFs are calculated at 340 nm using HCHO vertical profiles from the global chemistry transport model TM5-MP. Cloud information is taken from the TROPOMI operational cloud product (Loyola et al., 2018) for AMF calculations. Similar to the operational NO_2 product, albedo data are taken from the OMI climatology and will be updated to TROPOMI albedo climatology or to TROPOMI retrieved daily surface properties using the GE_LER algorithm (Loyola et al., 2020). A more detailed description of the TROPOMI HCHO retrieval algorithm

25   can be found in (De Smedt et al., 2018).

We have regridded and calculated the annual average of TROPOMI tropospheric NO_2 and HCHO VCDs over Germany and its surrounding regions. The annual averaged TROPOMI tropospheric NO_2 and HCHO maps over Germany are shown in Figure 3a and b, respectively. The the boxes in Figure 3a and b indicate the location of Munich which the zoomed in maps are shown in Figure 3c and d. Significant NO_2 hot spots can be observed over major cities indicating the significant

30   contribution of anthropogenic emissions. The zoomed in map to Munich also shows elevated NO_2 columns over the city center and surround the airport of Munich. On the other hand, the spatial distribution of HCHO shows more areal sources due to the strong contribution from biogenic emissions.
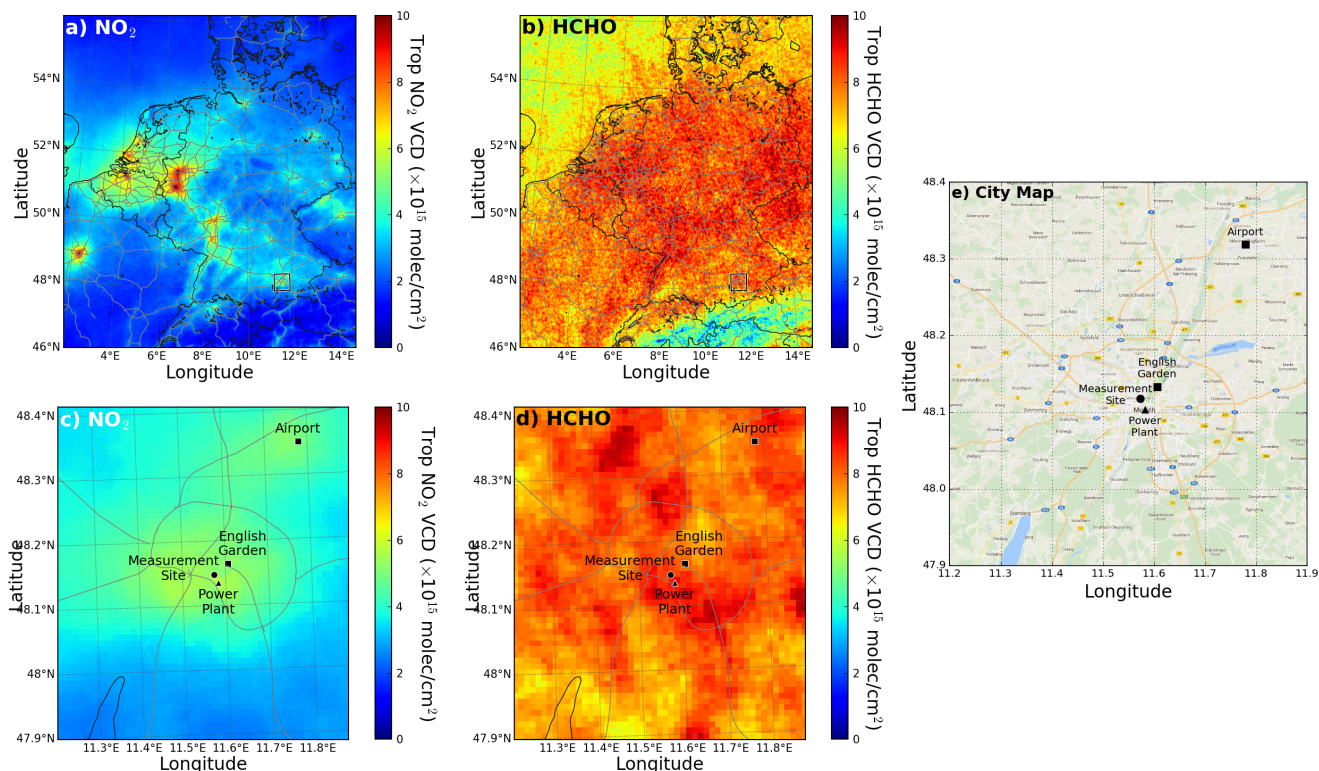
Figure 3. Annual average TROPOMI tropospheric (a) NO$_2$ and (b) HCHO VCDs over Germany and its surrounding regions. Zoomed in maps of (c) NO$_2$ and (d) HCHO over Munich are also shown in (c) and (d), respectively. Data from May 2018 to April 2019 are used in the calculation of average maps. Values above or below the range of the color scale are set to the maximum or minimum value of the color scale. (e) indicates the city map of Munich which the base map is taken from Google maps (https://www.google.com/maps/).

3 NO$_2$ and HCHO retrievals for Munich

3.1 Spatial variability

In order to investigate the spatial variability of NO$_2$ and HCHO, we utilize the azimuthal scans of the MAX-DOAS. Tropospheric NO$_2$ VCD measured by the MAX-DOAS with different viewing azimuth angles are plotted in Figure 4. Figure 4a shows normalized NO$_2$ VCDs measured at each azimuth angle in both winter (December, January and February) and summer (June, July and August). Figure 4b shows normalized HCHO VCDs measured in winter and summer. NO$_2$ and HCHO data is normalized by dividing the corresponding mean VCDs of all azimuth angles. Error bars indicate the 1 σ standard deviation variation which mostly representing the natural variations of the measurements, e.g., diurnal variation. NO$_2$ columns measured with different viewing azimuth angles during winter show a rather homogeneous spatial distribution, while during summer
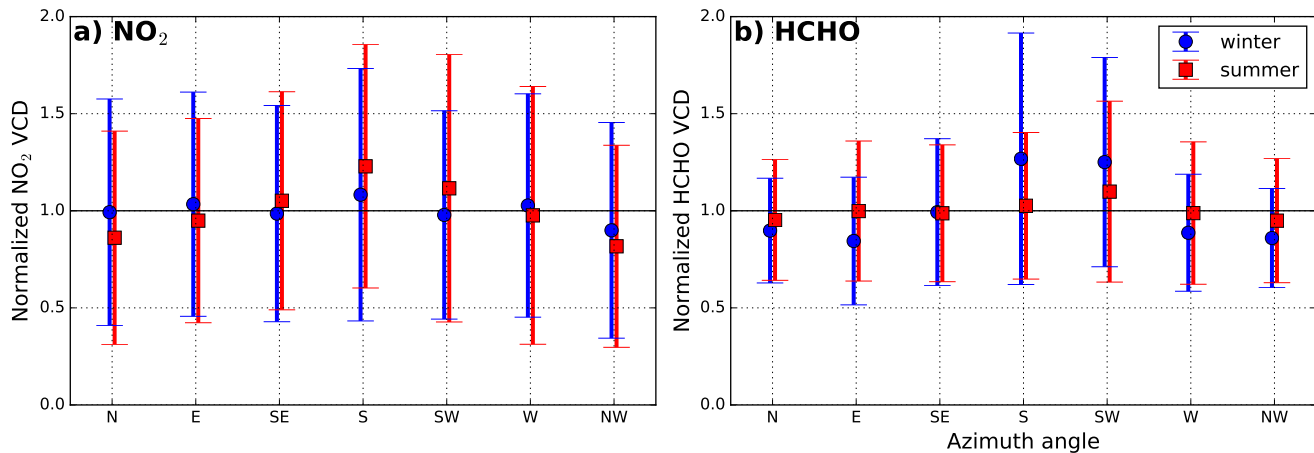
Figure 4. Normalized MAX-DOAS measurements of (a) NO_2 and (b) HCHO VCD for different viewing azimuth angles for winter (December, January and February, blue markers) and summer (June, July and August, red markers). The data is normalized by dividing the corresponding mean VCD. Error bars indicate the 1σ standard deviation variation range.

NO_2 columns show slightly higher values ($\sim20\%$) in the south and lower values in the north. A more homogeneous distribution of NO_2 is due to better horizontal mixing of NO_2 within the mixing layer during winter. The average wind speed in Munich during winter is ~12 km/h, while the summertime average wind speed is ~8 km/h (https://www.en.meteo.physik.uni-muenchen.de/wetter/index.html). Stronger wind speed together with the shallower mixing layer as known from ceilometer

5   measurements results in better horizontal mixing of NO_2 during winter. In addition, the atmospheric lifetime of NO_2 is longer in winter due to lower photolysis rate which also leads to more homogeneous NO_2 distribution. In the south of the measurement site where the city center is located, higher NO_2 levels are observed during summer. There are several local emission hot spots in the city, such as a number of busy crossroads and a minor natural gas power plant (see Figure 3). In addition, lower wind speed and shorter lifetime of NO_2 reduced the dispersion in summer, thus resulting in rather inhomogeneous NO_2 distribution.

10   Figure 4c and d show the MAX-DOAS measurements of HCHO VCD for different azimuth angles. Measurements taken during winter and summer are shown in Figure 4c and d, respectively. In contrast to the NO_2 distribution, the spatial distribution of HCHO is more homogeneous in summer, while higher values are observed in the south and south west of the measurement site during winter. Homogeneous distribution of HCHO during summer is likely related to its source characteristic. A large fraction of HCHO and its precursors is related to biogenic emissions from vegetation in summer. These biogenic sources are

15   areal sources and widely distributed over the city and its surrounding areas. One of the major biogenic emission sources is the English Garden, which is a public park with an area of $3.7\,\mathrm{km}^2$ and located in the center of Munich. Therefore, the spatial distribution of HCHO is expected to be more homogeneous in summer. Biogenic emissions are greatly reduced in winter and anthropogenic point sources, i.e., the natural gas power plant and domestic wood-burning heating system installed in old buildings, become the dominant source. Therefore, slightly elevated HCHO values are observed in the south and south west

direction during both summer winter. Less pronounced HCHO peak in the south during summer is likely related to the reduced domestic heating.

3.2 Day of week variability
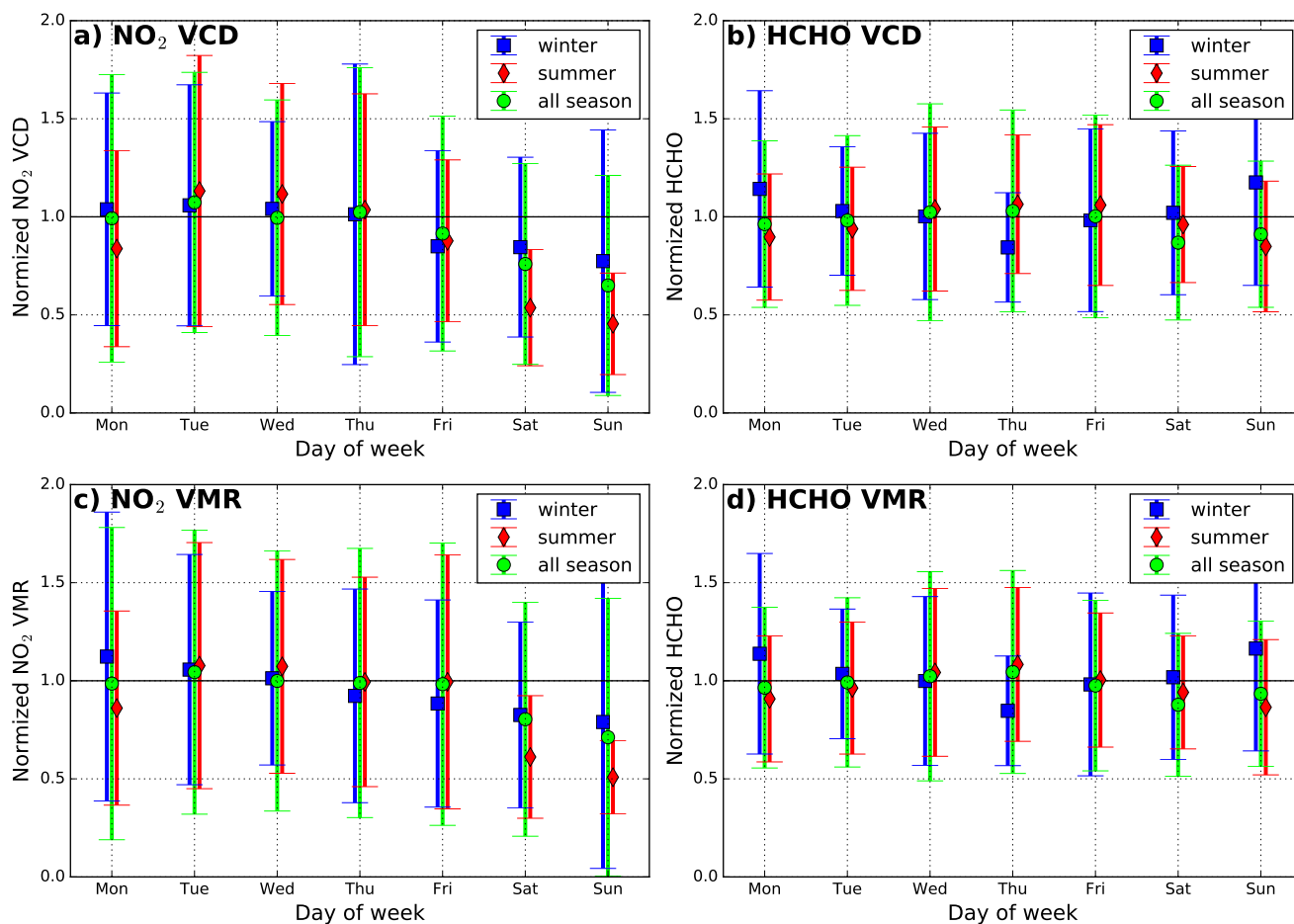
Figure 5. The left panels show the averaged weekly cycle of NO_2 (a) VCD and (c) volume mixing ratio at the surface layer. The right panels are the same as the left panels but for HCHO. Measurements are separated for winter (December, January and February, blue markers), summer (June, July and August, red markers) and all seasons (green markers). The data is normalized by dividing by the mean weekday value (Monday to Friday). Error bars indicate the 1σ standard deviation variation range.

Human activities usually fall into a 7-days weekly cycle. Reduction of industrial activities as well as traffic volume during weekend leads to lower levels of pollutant emission, an effect known as the weekend effect (Cleveland et al., 1974). We have investigated the weekend effect of NO_2 and HCHO using the MAX-DOAS measurements in Munich. Figure 5 shows the

normalized mean weekly cycle of NO$_2$ and HCHO. Measurements are separated for winter (December, January and February), summer (June, July and August) and all seasons. Data is normalized by dividing by the weekday mean value (Monday to Friday). Both vertical column and volume mixing ratio at the surface layer are shown. In the case of NO$_2$, both vertical columns and surface mixing ratios show lower values during weekends. NO$_2$ VCDs are in general reduced by 25 % and 35 % on Saturday and Sunday, respectively. The weekend reduction of surface mixing ratios is similar to that of the vertical column with reductions of 20 % for Saturday and 30 % for Sunday. The reduction of NO$_2$ level during weekend implies a large anthropogenic contribution of NO$_2$ emissions. The weekend reduction effect of NO$_2$ is more significant during summer and less pronounced in winter. NO$_2$ levels in summer are reduced by 40 % and 50 % on Saturday and Sunday, respectively, while the reduction in winter decreased to 15 % for Saturday and 25 % for Sunday. Stronger reduction effect during summer is related to the shorter atmospheric lifetime of NO$_2$ and as a result less accumulation from weekdays. Compared to NO$_2$, HCHO shows a much less significant weekly pattern. HCHO vertical columns and surface mixing ratios are in general reduced by ∼10 % during weekends. As natural emission, such as biogenic emission from plants, do not show a weekly pattern, the reduction during the weekend suggests that anthropogenic emissions of HCHO and its precursors have a substantial (>10 %) contribution to the ambient VOCs. The weekly patterns in winter is even less significant than the one in summer. In winter, HCHO levels observed on Sunday are even slightly higher than that of the weekday average. The anthropogenic sources of HCHO in the troposphere include the oxidation of various long lifetime VOCs, such as methane. Their lifetimes are even longer in winter and result in a less significant weekly pattern.

3.3 Relations among aerosol, NO$_2$ and HCHO
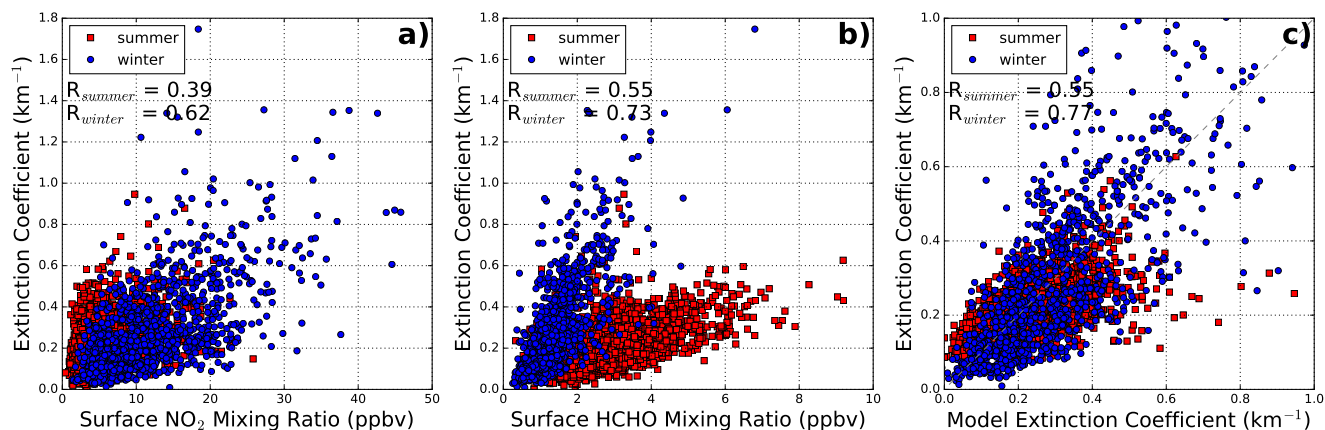
Figure 6. (a) shows the correlation between surface aerosol extinction coefficients ($\varepsilon_{\mathrm{surf}}$) and NO$_2$ mixing ratios. (b) shows the correlation between $\varepsilon_{\mathrm{surf}}$ and HCHO mixing ratios. (c) shows the scatter plot of measured and modeled surface aerosol extinction coefficients. Data measured in summer (June, July and August, red markers) and winter (December, January and February, blue markers) are shown.

The correlation between aerosol extinction coefficients, NO_2 and HCHO mixing ratios can be used to investigate the composition and sources of aerosols (Veefkind et al., 2011). Fossil fuel combustion is the most significant primary source of NO_2 and aerosols, while HCHO correlates strongly with secondary organic aerosol formation. Figure 6a shows the correlation between surface aerosol extinction coefficients (ε_{surf}) and NO_2 mixing ratios, while the correlation between ε_{surf} and HCHO mixing ratios is shown in Figure 6b. Aerosol extinction coefficients, NO_2 and HCHO mixing ratios at the lowest layer of the MAX-DOAS profile are used in the analysis. Considering that meteorological influences are very different during different seasons, we have separated measurements during summer and winter. Both surface NO_2 and HCHO mixing ratios show significant correlation with ε_{surf} with correlation coefficients ranging from $0.39 \le R \le 0.73$ with better correlations observed during winter. The aerosol extinction to NO_2 ratio for summer ($0.033\,\mathrm{km}^{-1}$/ppbv) and winter ($0.023\,\mathrm{km}^{-1}$/ppbv) is very similar. Assuming primary aerosols and NO_2 originate from the same sources, a rather constant aerosol to NO_2 ratio indicates that sources of primary emission are similar in summer and winter. On the other hand, a higher aerosol extinction to HCHO ratio is observed during winter ($0.213\,\mathrm{km}^{-1}$/ppbv) compared to summer ratio ($0.065\,\mathrm{km}^{-1}$/ppbv). Higher aerosol extinction to HCHO ratio reflects a longer atmospheric lifetime of secondary aerosol and HCHO in winter, whereas higher photolysis rates in summer result in a lower aerosol to HCHO ratio.

Assuming that NO_2 mixing ratios are related to primary emissions of aerosols and HCHO mixing ratios are related to secondary aerosol formation, we used a multiple linear regression model to estimate the contribution of primary and secondary aerosols. The comparison of modeled and MAX-DOAS measurements of aerosol extinction coefficients is shown in Figure 6c. The Pearson correlation coefficients (R) between modeled and measured aerosol extinction coefficient for summer and winter are 0.55 and 0.77, respectively. The multiple linear regression model only considered primary and secondary sources of aerosol, while factors, such as pollution transport and meteorological effects are not considered. Better correlation in winter indicates larger contributions of primary and secondary aerosols, whereas transportation and meteorological effects show a stronger influence on the ambient aerosol concentrations. Better correlation between aerosol and HCHO implies the large contribution of secondary aerosol, while primary aerosol sources show a less significant contribution as indicated by the correlation between aerosol and NO_2.

4   Intercomparison of MAX-DOAS retrievals with other data-sets

4.1   Comparison of surface aerosol and NO_2 concentrations

Aerosol extinction coefficients are related to the particle concentrations in the atmosphere, depending on the aerosol composition and size distribution. Thus, as a first approximation assuming constant composition, we compare the aerosol extinction coefficients at the lowest layer (ε_{surf}) of the MAX-DOAS profile retrieval to PM_{10} concentrations reported from the nearby air quality monitoring station. Time series of ε_{surf} at $360\,\mathrm{nm}$ and PM_{10} concentrations are shown in Figure 7a. As the in-situ air quality monitoring station only provides hourly data, MAX-DOAS measurements for all azimuth directions are averaged to hourly and monthly data for comparison. Both, ε_{surf} and PM_{10}, show similar variation pattern with slightly higher values in winter, however, ε_{surf} varies in a wide range with hourly value ranging from $0.005\,\mathrm{km}^{-1}$ up to $1.859\,\mathrm{km}^{-1}$. The correla-

tion between MAX-DOAS measurements of $\varepsilon_{\text{surf}}$ and PM_{10} concentrations from in-situ measurement is shown in Figure 7b. Monthly averaged MAX-DOAS data show a reasonable agreement with the in-situ PM_{10} measurements with R of 0.66. This moderate correlation can be explained by the differences in physical quantities of the two measurements. The aerosol extinction coefficient is not only related to the aerosol mass concentration, but also strongly related to the micro-physical properties of aerosol, such as the size distribution and particle composition. Meteorological factors, such as humidity and temperature, could have big impacts on the aerosol size distribution and optical properties. Therefore, the relation between $\varepsilon_{\text{surf}}$ and PM_{10} concentrations can be very different in different seasons (Schäfer et al., 2008). In addition, the spatial coverage of the two measurements is quite different. MAX-DOAS observations typically cover a few kilometers around the measurement site, whereas the in-situ measurements are only representative for the small area surrounding the station and governed by local conditions (see e.g. Geiß et al., 2017). As the in-situ monitor station is located northwest of the MAX-DOAS measurement site, we have also compared the $\varepsilon_{\text{surf}}$ measurement at azimuth angle of $315°$ to the in-situ data. The result shows a better agreement with each other with R of 0.82. The result indicates the strong spatial variation of aerosol in Munich and suggested that a single in-situ monitor is not representative for the general pollution condition in the city.

We have also compared the surface NO_2 mixing ratios retrieved from the MAX-DOAS observations to the in-situ monitor, the corresponding time series are shown in Figure 7c. The MAX-DOAS surface NO_2 mixing ratios are taken from the lowest layer of the NO_2 vertical profile retrieval. Similar to the PM_{10} comparison, individual MAX-DOAS surface NO_2 data are averaged to hourly and monthly values for comparison. The surface NO_2 mixing ratios show a similar seasonal pattern as PM_{10} with higher values during winter and lower in summer. The surface NO_2 mixing ratios vary in a wide range. Hourly averaged MAX-DOAS data is ranging from 0.4 ppbv up to 53.5 ppbv, while in-situ monitor reports a variation of 1.3 - 100.2 ppbv. The MAX-DOAS observations are systematically lower than the in-situ monitor by $\sim$50 %. Figure 7d shows the scatter plot between MAX-DOAS and in-situ measurements of surface NO_2 mixing ratios. Both hourly and monthly averaged data show good agreement with $R = 0.91$ for the monthly values. The slope of the total least squares regression line is 0.54 with an offset of 0.61 ppbv. Lower values measured by the MAX-DOAS are mainly due to the differences in vertical coverage. NO_2 mixing ratios at the lowest layer of the MAX-DOAS retrieval represent the average values from 20 m (roof top level) to 120 m above ground, while the in-situ monitor measures at $\sim$15 m above street level. We have also linear extrapolated the MAX-DOAS measurements to 15 m using the lowest two layers of the NO_2 vertical profile retrieval. The extrapolated NO_2 concentrations are $\sim$10 % higher than the lowest layer of the MAX-DOAS measurements. The result indicates a stronger enhancement of NO_2 levels at near street level compared to the upper part of the mixing layer. The major source of NO_2 in urban areas are traffic emissions which are emitted at street level, therefore, the atmospheric concentration of NO_2 is expected to be lower after being dispersed to upper altitudes. In addition, the MAX-DOAS reports NO_2 mixing ratios averaged along a long optical path, which covers residential areas and city parks, where the NO_2 mixing ratios are expected to be lower. As a consequence, the MAX-DOAS is in general measuring lower surface NO_2 mixing ratios than the in-situ monitoring station.
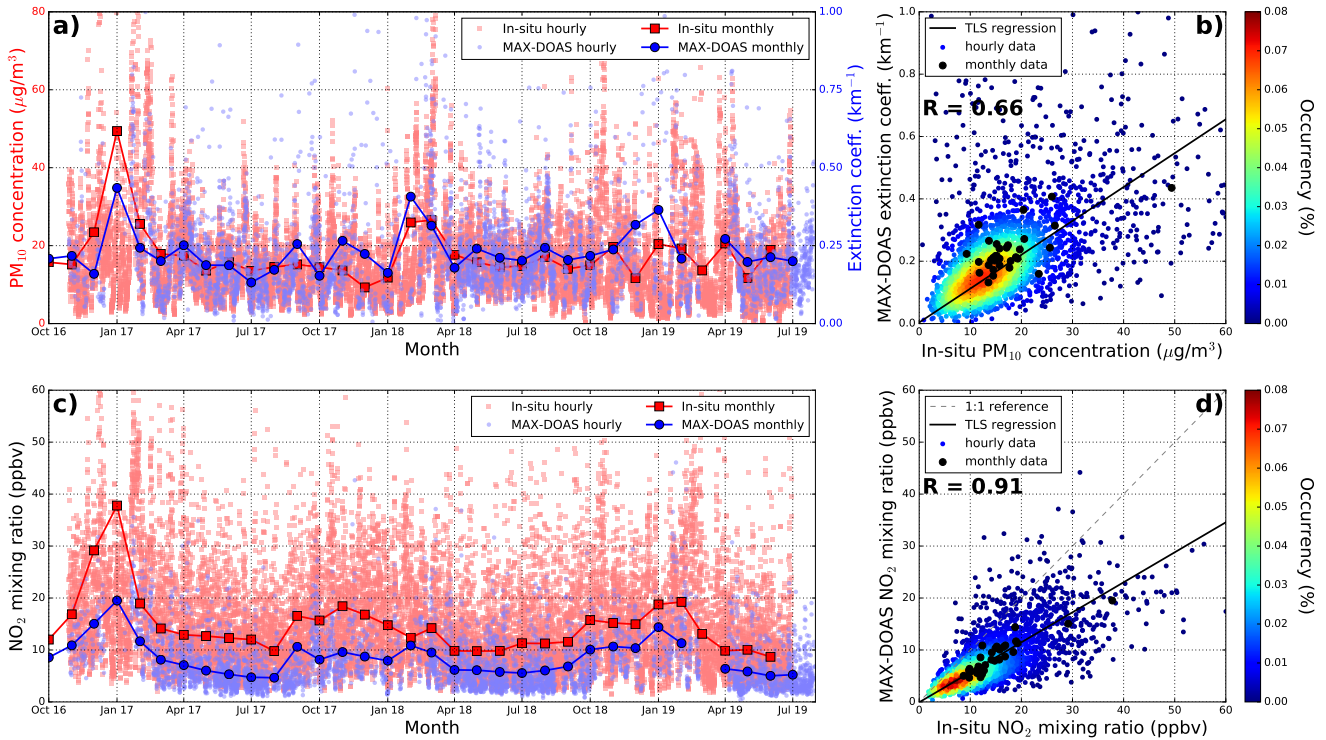
Figure 7. (a) Time series of surface aerosol optical extinction coefficients $\varepsilon_\mathrm{surf}$ at 360 nm retrieved from MAX-DOAS observations (blue curve) and PM_{10} concentrations measured by the air quality monitoring station (red curve). (b) Scatter plot of $\varepsilon_\mathrm{surf}$ against PM_{10} concentrations. (c) Time series of surface NO_2 mixing ratios measured by the MAX-DOAS (blue curve) and the air quality monitoring station (red curve). (d) Scatter plot of the NO_2 mixing rations measured by the MAX-DOAS against the air quality monitoring station measurements. Correlation coefficient and total least squares regression lines are calculated based on monthly averaged data.

4.2 Comparison of aerosol optical depth

Time series of AOD at 360 nm over Munich derived from MAX-DOAS and sun-photometer measurements are compared in Figure 8a. For this purpose sun-photometer data measured at 340 and 380 nm have been interpolated to 360 nm following the Ångström exponent approach. As the temporal resolution of the MAX-DOAS and the sun-photometer are different, individual

5   data are averaged to hourly and monthly values for comparison. Missing data are due to cloud filtering or instrument maintenance. The annual average of the AOD from the MAX-DOAS and sun-photometer observations is 0.21 and 0.23, respectively, indicating consistency between both remote sensing techniques. In contrast to the surface aerosol extinction coefficients and PM_{10} concentrations the annual cycle of the AOD shows larger values in summer and lower values in winter. This is true for measurements from MAX-DOAS and sun-photometer. Stronger convection and insolation resulting in extended mixing layers

10   as well as enhanced emission of e.g. biogenic VOCs are the main reasons of increased AOD in spring and summer. Moreover,
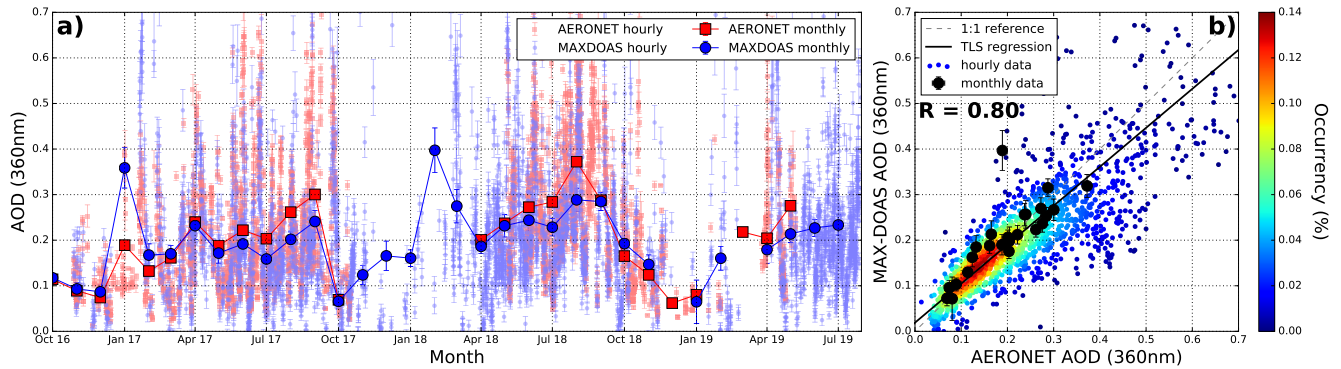
Figure 8. (a) Time series of aerosol optical depth measured by MAX-DOAS (blue curve) and sun-photometer (red curve). (b) scatter plot of aerosol optical depth measured by MAX-DOAS and sunphotometer. The correlation coefficient and total least squares regression line is calculated based on the hourly averaged data.

long range transport of Saharan dust occurs frequently with sometimes exceptionally large contributions (Ansmann et al., 2003; Wiegner et al., 2011). The difference between the annual variation of $\varepsilon_{\mathrm{surf}}$ and AOD suggests a different vertical distribution of aerosols in different seasons. Due to reduced vertical exchange aerosols are concentrated near the surface during winter, resulting in increased $\varepsilon_{\mathrm{surf}}$ and low AOD.

5   The scatter plot of MAX-DOAS and sun-photometer derived AOD is shown in Figure 8b. Hourly averaged data correlate well with $R = 0.80$. Despite the high correlation between the two data-sets, AOD derived from MAX-DOAS is in general slightly lower than the AERONET retrievals, especially under high aerosol load. The slope of the total least squares regression line is 0.86 with an offset of 0.02. The discrepancy between the results can be explained by the differences in the measurement techniques: the MAX-DOAS retrieval derives the AOD from observations of O_4 absorption, and is mostly sensitive to aerosols

10   in the lowest few kilometers of the troposphere as it uses lower elevation angles. In contrast the sun-photometer retrieval is based on the reduction of the transmission of solar radiation along the line of sight, thus covering the full vertical extent of the atmosphere. As the AODs reported from the MAX-DOAS only represent the AODs of the lowest 3 km, while the sun-photometer AODs cover the entire atmosphere, lower AODs observed by the MAX-DOAS is expected. Furthermore, the assumptions on aerosol optical properties in the MAX-DOAS retrieval also contribute to the uncertainties of the MAX-DOAS

15   AOD ($\sim$5 %) (Chan et al., 2019).

5   MAX-DOAS retrievals for satellite validation

5.1   Comparison of NO$_2$ columns

Tropospheric NO$_2$ vertical column densities retrieved from the MAX-DOAS measurements are compared to OMI and TROPOMI observations over Munich. MAX-DOAS VCDs are temporally averaged around the OMI and TROPOMI overpass time of
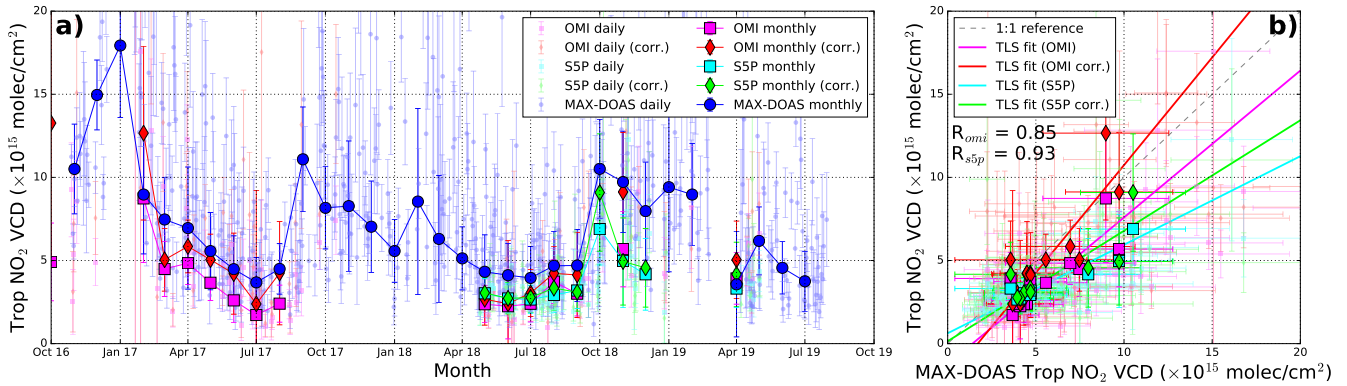
Figure 9. (a) Time series of tropospheric NO$_2$ vertical column densities measured by MAX-DOAS, OMI and TROPOMI (labeled as S5P). MAX-DOAS data are temporally averaged around the satellite overpass time, while OMI and TROPOMI observations are spatially averaged within 10 km of the MAX-DOAS measurement site. OMI and TROPOMI VCDs retrieved using MAX-DOAS profile as a-priori information are shown as well (labeled as OMI corr. and S5P corr.). (b) scatter plot of tropospheric NO$_2$ VCDs measured by MAX-DOAS and TROPOMI.

12:00 - 14:00 (local time), while OMI and TROPOMI data are spatially averaged for pixels within 10 km of the MAX-DOAS measurement site. Time series of tropospheric NO$_2$ VCDs from MAX-DOAS, OMI and TROPOMI observations are shown in Figure 9a. OMI and TROPOMI NO$_2$ VCDs retrieved using MAX-DOAS profile as a-priori information are also indicated. Daily and monthly averages are shown. Missing data are due to high cloudiness, pixel anomaly of OMI or maintenance of the

5   MAX-DOAS instrument. OMI measurements are occasionally exceeding the MAX-DOAS values, which is mainly due to high cloudiness and the OMI pixel anomaly issue and result in rather sparse valid OMI measurements within these months. Both ground based and satellite measurements show lower NO$_2$ VCDs in summer and higher values during winter. Higher NO$_2$ levels in winter are mainly due to higher emissions, e.g., domestic heating, and longer atmospheric life time of NO$_2$.

The scatter plot of OMI and TROPOMI observations of tropospheric NO$_2$ VCDs against MAX-DOAS measurements is

10   shown in Figure 9b. Both OMI and TROPOMI NO$_2$ observations show good correlation with MAX-DOAS measurements with $R = 0.85$ and $R = 0.93$, respectively. However, both space borne observations report lower NO$_2$ columns than the MAX-DOAS. Averaged difference between OMI and TROPOMI satellite observations and MAX-DOAS measurements of NO$_2$ VCDs are -2.32×10^{15} molec/cm^2 and -2.25×10^{15} molec/cm^2, respectively. The underestimation of NO$_2$ VCDs is partly related to the a-priori vertical distribution profile of NO$_2$ used in the air mass factor calculation of the satellite retrieval. These satellite a-

15   priori profiles are taken from the TM5 chemistry transport model simulation. The horizontal resolution of TM5 is rather coarse ($1° \times 1°$) which is not able to fully resolve emission hot spots over cites. In order to quantify the influence of the a-priori NO$_2$ profile in the satellite retrieval, we have recomputed the OMI and TROPOMI NO$_2$ VCDs by using MAX-DOAS NO$_2$ profiles as a-priori information (labeled as OMI corr. and S5P corr. in Figure 9). Monthly averages of the a-priori NO$_2$ profiles used in the satellite retrieval are shown in Figure 10a, while the corresponding MAX-DOAS retrievals are shown in Figure 10b.
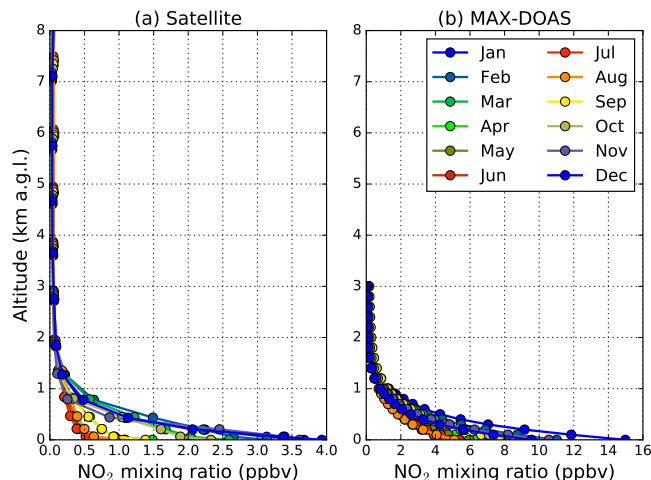
Figure 10. (a) Monthly average of NO$_2$ a-priori profiles used in the satellite retrieval. (b) MAX-DOAS measurements of NO$_2$ profiles.

MAX-DOAS NO$_2$ profiles show about 4 times higher NO$_2$ levels at the surface compared to the original a-priori profiles used in the satellite retrieval. Our finding agrees with the previous studies that higher resolution and more accurate a-priori profile information would significantly improve the TROPOMI observations of NO$_2$ (Griffin et al., 2019; Zhao et al., 2020). Using the MAX-DOAS NO$_2$ profiles as a-priori information generally increased the OMI and TROPOMI NO$_2$ VCDs by ∼45 %

5 and ∼17 %, respectively. Due to difference in temporal coverage, OMI provides longer term measurement while TROPOMI measurements are only available after November 2017, the percentage increase of OMI and TROPOMI NO$_2$ VCDs are quite different. If we only consider the same period of November 2017 to July 2019, the percentage of increase is similar for OMI and TROPOMI. As can be seen in Figure 9 the absolute values of OMI and TROPOMI NO$_2$ VCDs retrieved with MAX-DOAS NO$_2$ profiles as a-priori agree better with the MAX-DOAS measurements with correlation nearly unchanged.

10 Previous satellite observations often underestimated the tropospheric NO$_2$ columns over cities or pollution hot spots. The underestimation is partially related to the large satellite footprint which is not able to capture the spatial gradient of NO$_2$ due to the averaging over large satellite pixels (Wenig et al., 2008; Chan et al., 2012). This averaging effect over hot spots can be estimated by using high resolution TROPOMI observations. Tropospheric NO$_2$ VCDs measured by TROPOMI are spatially averaged with different radii are shown in Figure 11. Satellite data with their pixels center coordinate within certain

15 radius of the MAX-DOAS measurement site are used in the spatial averaging. The MAX-DOAS measurement in the UV typically covers a range of 5 - 8 km depending on the visibility, while the measurement in the VIS has a better coverage of 8 - 12 km. Therefore, the percentage of underestimation relative to the 5 km average is shown in Figure 11 as reference. The result shows that the averaged NO$_2$ VCDs decreases with increasing averaging radius. NO$_2$ columns are underestimated by ∼8 % with an averaging radius of 10 km which is approximately the size of OMI footprint at nadir (13 km × 24 km). The

20 underestimation increases to ∼13 % and ∼34 % for averaging radius of 15 km (average OMI pixel size) and 50 km. These
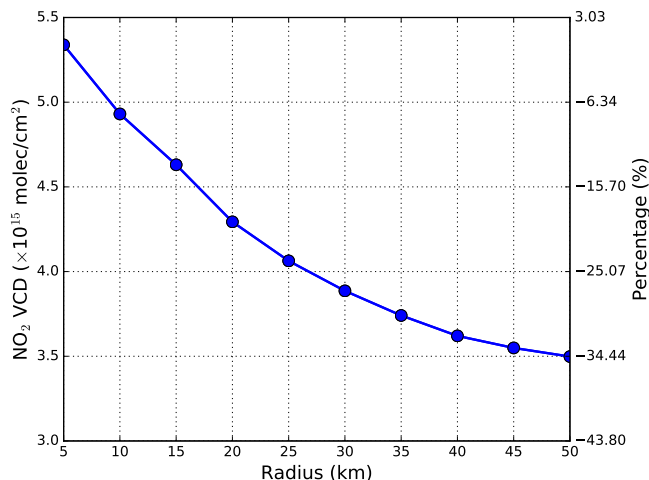
Figure 11. Tropospheric NO$_2$ VCDs measured by TROPOMI spatially averaged with different radius surrounding the MAX-DOAS measurement site.

numbers are characteristic for pollution hot spots of the size of Munich (approximately 5 km in radius), but they could be different for hot spots of different size and spatial distribution. Although the spatial resolution of TROPOMI observations have been significantly improved compared to its predecessors, satellite observations are still critical to resolve spatial features of pollutant within a city. Therefore, ground based measurements are essential for the investigation of small scale pollution within
5 a city.

5.2 Comparison of HCHO columns

MAX-DOAS observations of HCHO VCDs are also used to validate TROPOMI measurements. Time series of HCHO VCDs measured by the MAX-DOAS and TROPOMI are shown in Figure 12a. MAX-DOAS VCDs are temporally averaged around the TROPOMI overpass time of 12:00 - 14:00 (local time), while TROPOMI data are spatially averaged for pixels within 10 km
10 of the MAX-DOAS measurement site. Again, gaps are mainly due to high cloud amount and maintenance of the MAX-DOAS instrument. In contrast to the NO$_2$ data, the HCHO VCDs show higher values in summer and lower VCDs during winter. Higher HCHO levels are expected in summer due to stronger biogenic emissions of precursor VOCs from vegetation and higher oxidation rate of VOCs. The scatter plot of TROPOMI HCHO VCDs against MAX-DOAS measurements is shown in Figure 12b. Satellite and ground based measurements show good correlation with $R = 0.88$ for monthly averaged HCHO VCDs.
15 The absolute values measured by TROPOMI is however $\sim$30 % lower than the MAX-DOAS measurements. The average HCHO VCDs measured by TROPOMI and MAX-DOAS are 4.42×10^{15} moles/cm^2 and 6.56×10^{15} moles/cm^2, respectively. The slope of the total least squares regression line is 0.76 with an offset of -1.10×10^{15} moles/cm^2. Analogously to the previous section we have recomputed the TROPOMI HCHO VCDs by using MAX-DOAS profiles (see Figure 13b) instead of the TM5-
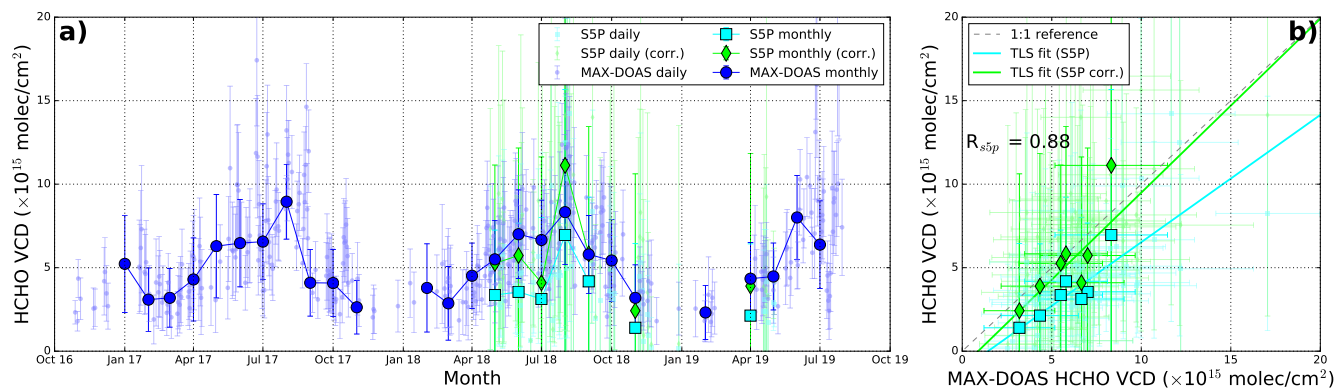
Figure 12. (a) Time series of tropospheric HCHO vertical column densities measured by MAX-DOAS and TROPOMI. MAX-DOAS data are temporally averaged around the TROPOMI overpass time, while TROPOMI observations are spatially averaged within 10 km of the MAX-DOAS measurement site. TROPOMI VCDs retrieved using MAX-DOAS profile as a-priori information are also indicated (labelled "corr"). (b) scatter plot of tropospheric HCHO VCDs measured by MAX-DOAS and TROPOMI.

profiles (see Figure 13a) as a-priori information to estimate the influence of the a-priori profile. The MAX-DOAS profiles show larger amounts of HCHO in the lower troposphere. Using the MAX-DOAS profile as a-priori in the satellite retrieval in general enhanced the HCHO columns by ~50 %. The averaged TROPOMI HCHO VCD increased to 6.37×10^{15} moles/cm^2. The slope of the regression line of the new data-set also increased to 1.04 (see Figure 12b).
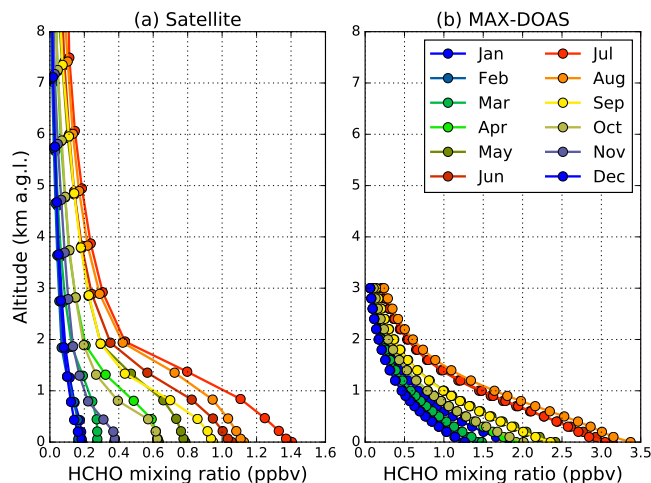
Figure 13. (a) Monthly averages of HCHO mixing ratio based on TM5-simulations as used a-priori profiles in the satellite retrieval. (b) MAX-DOAS measurements of HCHO profiles.

Similar to the discussion on NO_2 retrievals we have analyzed the spatial averaging effect of satellite observations over a HCHO emission hot spot. TROPOMI HCHO VCDs are spatially averaged with different radii surrounding the MAX-DOAS measurement site and the result is shown in Figure 14. The underestimation relative to the 5 km average is also shown on the right axis. As expected the averaged HCHO VCDs decrease with increasing averaging radius. HCHO column for an averaging radius of 10 km is ~7 % lower than the 5 km average. The underestimation increases to ~8 % and ~15 % with an averaging radius of 15 km and 50 km, respectively. The decrease pattern indicated that there are significant anthropogenic HCHO or HCHO precursor emission in Munich. However, compared to the decreasing pattern of NO_2, HCHO shows a more homogeneous distribution as it is mainly originated from regional sources.
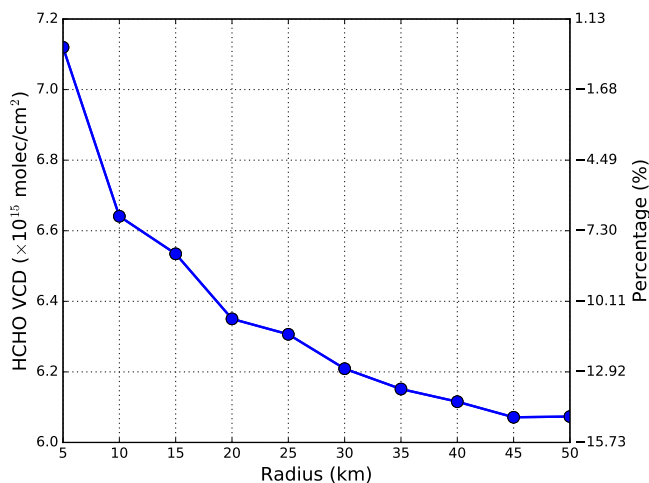
Figure 14. Tropospheric HCHO VCDs measured by TROPOMI spatially averaged with different radii surrounding the MAX-DOAS measurement site.

6   Summary and conclusion

In this paper, we present the first 2D Multi-AXis Differential Optical Absorption Spectroscopy (MAX-DOAS) observations of nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) and formaldehyde (HCHO) vertical profile in Munich, Germany. The measurement covers the time period from October 2016 to July 2019. We have determined vertical columns and vertical profiles of the aerosol extinction coefficient, NO_2 and HCHO for Munich. The measured data are used to analyze the spatio-temporal variation of NO_2 and HCHO. The spatial distribution of NO_2 was in general quite homogeneous in winter, while higher values are observed at the city center during summer. Spatial pattern of HCHO shows higher values in the south in winter and a rather homogeneous distribution in summer. Analysis of the relations between aerosols, NO_2 and HCHO shows higher aerosol to HCHO ratios in winter which reflects a longer atmospheric lifetime of aerosol and HCHO during winter. The results also suggested that secondary aerosol formation is the major source of aerosol in Munich.

Our MAX-DOAS retrievals were also compared to independent data-sets: we used in-situ data from an ambient monitoring station for the intercomparison of surface aerosol extinction coefficients and MAX-DOAS derived NO_2 mixing ratios. A Pearson correlation coefficient of $R = 0.91$ was found between MAX-DOAS and in-situ measurements of surface level NO_2, however, the MAX-DOAS reports $\sim$50 % lower NO_2 mixing ratios. Lower NO_2 values measured by the MAX-DOAS are due to the differences in spatial averaging. MAX-DOAS measurement of AOD was compared to AERONET data. The annual cycle was coherent with the MAX-DOAS measurements, and shows higher values in summer and lower values in winter.

Finally, we use tropospheric vertical column densities (VCDs) of NO_2 and HCHO derived from MAX-DOAS measurements to validate OMI and TROPOMI satellite observations. Monthly averaged data show good correlation with each other. However, satellite observations are on average 30 % lower than the MAX-DOAS measurements. Underestimation of NO_2 and HCHO columns are largely related to the coarse spatial resolution of a-priori profiles of the satellite retrieval. Using MAX-DOAS observations as a-priori in satellite retrievals greatly reduce the underestimation.

In summary, our results demonstrate a wide range of applications of MAX-DOAS measurements in a global frame work, but also for investigations of the air quality in metropolitan areas. An obvious advantage is that different atmospheric components can be retrieved simultaneously. Thus, for the understanding of details of and reasons for the interactions between trace gases, aerosols and meteorological variables, MAX-DOAS measurements can provide a substantial contribution, however, only the combination of different observation techniques (e.g. Wiegner et al., 2006; Emeis et al., 2008; Geiß et al., 2017; von Schnei-demesser et al., 2018) and city scale resolving models (Vlemmix et al., 2015; Maronga et al., 2019, 2020) can ultimately resolve the open questions and lead to (political) regulations for the future design of urban environments to meet high air quality standards.

Code and data availability. The M[3] profile retrieval algorithm and MAX-DOAS data used in this study are available on request from the corresponding author (ka.chan@dlr.de).

Appendix A

Author contributions. KLC and MW designed the experiment. KLC, CA and SY carried out the experiment. JVG, IDS and ZC provided support on satellite data. MW provided support on review and editing the manuscript. KLC analyzed the measurement data and prepared the article with contributions from all co-authors.

Competing interests. The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.
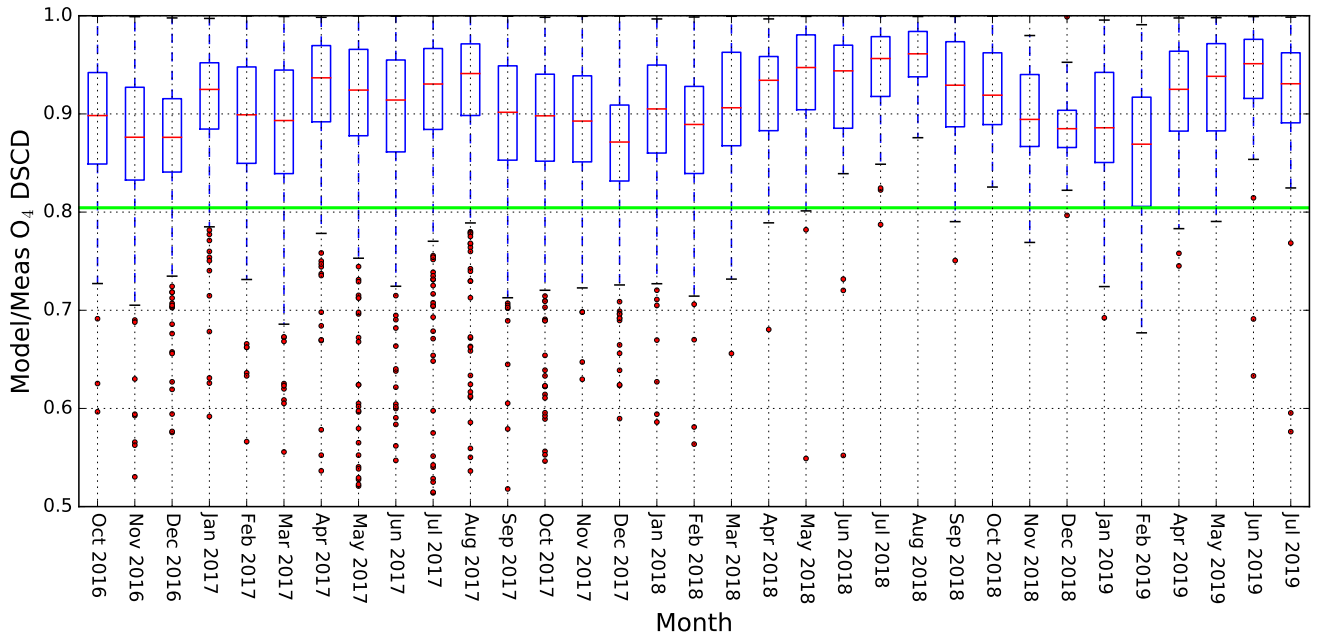
Figure A1. Monthly statistic of measured O_4 DSCD exceeding pure Rayleigh simulation. The ratios between modeled and measured O_4 DSCDs for observations taken at elevation angle of $15°$ are shown. The green line indicates the 10th percentile (0.804).

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